

# ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

May 2009

## Construction under way on addition to Sitzmann Hall

Construction began this month on an addition to Sitzmann Hall, the home of the St. Thomas Center for Catholic Studies at 2055 Summit Ave.

Crews from McGough Companies, the contractor, will install a construction fence around the project, which is expected to take up to six months to complete. The \$4.2 million, 4,700-square-foot expansion will be paid for entirely by contributions from Catholic Studies benefactors.

The addition will consist of a new north wing with offices, a classroom, a chapel, storage areas and an elevator to service all four levels. Portions of the existing third floor and low-ceiling attic will be renovated to increase interior heights.

The three-car driveway and parking area off Cleveland will be removed and replaced by green space, and the brick walls along Cleveland and the east-west alley will be rebuilt. Landscaping in the backyard will include a pergola and a meditation area.

"We are all set to go," said Dr. Don Briel, director of the Center for Catholic Studies. "We are excited about the project's

design and the additional space it will provide to us."

Catholic Studies moved into the building, previously known as Chiuminatto Hall and occupied by the Department of Music, in 2003. Subsequent program growth led to overcrowded working conditions, and expansion options were studied.

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee endorsed the project last fall and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission approved it in March. The commission's approval was necessary because Sitzmann is in the West Summit Avenue Historic District.

"The design not only provides badly needed additional space,"

said Kurt Dale of Anderson Dale Architects of West St. Paul, "but it also preserves the historic character of the building's Summit Avenue façade and is sensitive to the scale and character of the neighborhood."

Sitzmann, a Georgian Revival building, was constructed in 1927 as a single-family house. St. Thomas acquired the house in 1943, used it for classes and music lessons and named it for Dr. Anthony Chiuminatto, Music Department chairman from 1946 to 1973. The building was renovated for Catholic Studies in 2002-2003 and named for Eugene and Faye Sitzmann of St. Paul, who are benefactors of the program.

## City to begin neighborhood street reconstruction project

A St. Paul street-and-curb reconstruction project is set to begin about July 1 in the university neighborhood.

Affected streets include: Finn Street between Summit and St. Clair avenues, Lincoln and Princeton avenues between Cleveland Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard, Sargent Avenue between Cleveland and

Woodlawn avenues and Mount Curve Boulevard between Goodrich and St. Clair avenues.

Residents of Goodrich Avenue between Cretin Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard requested that brick pavers be used to resurface their street. On May 6, the St. Paul City Council approved their request.



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

# Building names offer historical peek at region's church leaders

Thirteen buildings at the University of St. Thomas and the St. Paul Seminary are named for

11 men who led the Catholic Church in this region since 1837:

**Loras Hall, 1894** – This building is named after Bishop Jean Mathias Loras, who served from 1837 to 1858 as the first bishop of the Diocese of Dubuque, which included the Twin Cities area. Loras was a residence for seminarians until St. Thomas

obtained seminary property in a 1987 affiliation and converted the building into offices.

**Cretin Hall, 1894** – Named after Bishop Joseph Cretin, the first bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul (1851-1957), this building was a seminary residence until the affiliation with St. Thomas, and since has been a residence for undergraduate men.

**Ireland Hall, 1912** – Always a residence hall for men, it was named after Archbishop John Ireland (1884-1918), who founded St. Thomas in 1885 and the St. Paul Seminary in 1894. Ireland

soon will celebrate its centennial.

**Grace Hall, 1914** – This hall was named after Bishop Thomas

Grace, the second bishop of St. Paul (1859-1884). Like Loras and Cretin, Grace served as a seminary residence hall until St. Thomas converted the building to a residence for undergraduate women.

**Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library, 1949**

– Also named for the founder of the university and the seminary, this library is noted for its

theological collection and is used by UST students and seminarians alike.

**Dowling Hall, 1959** – This hall was named for Archbishop Austin Dowling (1919-1930) and was a men's residence hall until 1979. Now it is a hall for women.

**Murray Hall, 1960** – Named for Archbishop John Gregory Murray (1931-1956), this hall has served as a student center for nearly 50 years. There have been two additions – residence hall rooms for women in 1977 and the Herrick Hall addition in 1989, when the building was renamed

Murray-Herrick Campus Center.

**Brady Hall, 1967** – Named for Archbishop William O. Brady (1956-1961), this building started as a men's residence hall, then was used as a residence for St. John Vianney Seminary from 1972 to 1983, when SJV moved into its own building.

**Brady Educational Center, 1968** – Also named after Archbishop Brady, the center opened as a classroom building for the St. Paul Seminary and was transferred to St. Thomas in 1987. Today, it serves as a classroom building for both the university and the seminary.

**Binz Refectory, 1977** – Named after Archbishop Leo Binz (1961-1975), this building opened as dining facility for seminary students, faculty and staff, and today also serves the UST community.

**Byrne Residence for Retired Priests, 1995** – This residence, named after Coadjutor Archbishop Leo Byrne, is located on Mississippi River Boulevard. The first Byrne Residence was located on the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin avenues from 1979 to 1995, when it was razed to make way for the Frey Science and Engineering Center.

**John R. Roach Center for the Liberal Arts, 2000** – Named for Archbishop John Roach (1975-1995), this building was constructed in 1947 as Albertus Magnus Hall and was renovated after science departments moved to the Frey Science and Engineering Center in 1997.

**Flynn Hall, 2005** – See box above left.

## Residence renamed to honor Archbishop Flynn

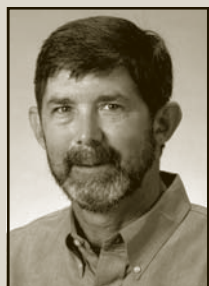
The University of St. Thomas has renamed Selby Hall, a residence for undergraduate students on the St. Paul campus, as Flynn Hall in honor of Archbishop Harry Flynn.

St. Thomas opened the 418-bed hall in September 2005 and at the time informally named it Selby Hall because of its location on Selby Avenue.

The university has a practice of awarding naming rights to buildings when a gift of at least half of the construction cost is given or pledged. Recently, more than a dozen of Flynn's friends and admirers came together to commit more than \$14 million to St. Thomas to secure the building's naming rights for him.

Flynn, who has served as chair of the St. Thomas Board of Trustees since 1995, came to Minnesota in 1994 to serve as coadjutor archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He became archbishop the following year and retired last May. He maintains an office and a residence at St. Thomas campus.

## Over the back fence



**By John Hershey, Neighborhood Liaison**

As a university administrator, I'll soon have to find a polite way to respond to a

question that's become a pet peeve: "How was your summer?" Every year people ask me that question, inferring I take the summer off and that I don't have to work. But I do.

This summer, for example, will provide me with plenty of work. It promises to be an exciting one for St. Thomas as we start a series of major construction projects along with many summer maintenance chores.

If you passed the corner of Cleveland and Summit, you might have noticed a hole in the ground behind Sitzmann Hall. After months of consultation, study and presentations to various city and neighborhood groups, we're adding a wing to the building to meet the growing administrative needs of the Center for Catholic Studies.

To learn more about the project, visit this university Web site:

[www.stthomas.edu/construction](http://www.stthomas.edu/construction). There you also can see the project's construction management plan, which was developed by St. Thomas, McGough Companies and the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee. As the project unfolds, I will provide weekly Web updates, including any advisories for items such driving lane closures. Obviously, we've already provided this information to our most immediate neighbors. We hope to begin using the building by November.

At the end of May, we'll raze Foley Theater, Schoenecker Arena and Coughlan Field House and replace these outdated athletic facilities with a new one, the Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex.

Though larger in scope than the Sitzmann project, it is more internal to the campus and we anticipate minimal neighborhood disruption. Nevertheless, you'll be able to follow the construction process on the same Web site.

The most obvious change you'll see is that most of the university parking lot at the corner of Cretin and Summit will become a staging area for the project's contractor, Opus Northwest. Construction vehicles will enter and exit via Cretin while other lot users will enter and exit on Summit. The majority of university

parking will be redirected to the new Anderson Parking Facility at the corner of Cretin and Grand.

I will say I was pleased when I discovered that neither project will require any pile driving. The noise from that can be a real bother. As these projects unfold, I will remain a point person for neighbors. Feel free to call or write if you have any questions or concerns.

Remember, too, that you can always check the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee Web page, [www.wsnac.net](http://www.wsnac.net), for information on area events, activities, advisories and more.

Finally, the footprint of the new athletic and recreation center project will affect Neighborfest, the university's annual neighborhood celebration. Since most of Foley Plaza will be given over to a construction site, we're moving the festivities – for at least this summer and next – a few hundred feet north, into the campus' residential quad. It'll be just as fun. Mark your summer calendar now for Neighborfest, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 30. There'll be great picnic food, good music and, if you're young enough, a pony ride. See you then!

## Space still available for Summer Day Camp at McCarthy Gym

The 26th annual Summer Day Camp at St. Thomas' McCarthy Gym runs from June 22 to Aug. 14.

Camp sessions offer children ages 3-12 a variety of activities that focus on recreation, the natural world, diversity, the arts and environmental issues. Daily Red Cross swimming lessons also are provided.

One- and two-week sessions and extended day options are available, and a free junior

counselor program is designed for boys and girls 13-16 (bonus: a 25-use card for McCarthy gym is given to those who complete the junior counselor program).

Preschool sessions range from \$152 for weeklong preschool sessions to \$278 for two-week sessions available for school-age children.

For the details, visit the camp Web site, [www.stthomas.edu/mccarthygym/camp](http://www.stthomas.edu/mccarthygym/camp). There you'll

also find a downloadable camp brochure and registration form.

To register, send the signed registration form and \$100 registration fee to McCarthy Gym, Mail MCG, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. The balance of camp fees is due June 1.

If you have questions, call Peggy Margenau at (651) 962-5933. Hurry! Sessions are filling fast.

# At St. Thomas

Join the St. Thomas community for these speakers, events and performances.  
For more information, call the number listed with the event or (651) 962-6400.

## May 20

*Reading:* Father Marvin O'Connell, professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame, will give a reading from his new book, *Pilgrims to the Northland* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2008), a history of the Archdiocese of St. Paul from 1840 to 1962.

The event will begin at 7:15 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium. It's free and open to the public. Info: (651) 962-5727.



## May 21

*Research presentations:* Seven UST art history graduate students will give their final research presentations in a forum at 4:30 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium.

Among presentation topics: the spirit of Norwegian tapestry, the role of absinthe in Victorian art, an introduction to African American photographer James VanDerZee, a look at a Minnesota mosque and more.

A reception follows, and everyone's welcome. Info: (651) 962-5640.



## May 23

*Commencement exercises:* The university will welcome thousands of guests for its annual spring commencement exercises. Graduate school ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. in Schoenecker Arena; baccalaureate exercises begin at 2 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Stadium; and Opus College of Business graduate ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. in the arena.

These events are open only to graduating students and their guests. We ask for your patience with a bit of extra traffic congestion and celebratory noise that day. Thank you!



*Apple blossoms dress up the St. Thomas campus each spring.*

## June 1-26

*Art exhibit:* Missing those beautiful works of preschool art that used to cover your refrigerator? Come and see a free exhibit, "Art From the UST Child Development Center," in the Lobby Gallery of O'Shaughnessy Educational Center.

Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and noon to 10 p.m. Sundays. Info: (651) 962-5041.



## June 19

*Concert:* St. Thomas' African Music Ensemble, directed by Sowah Mensah, gives a noon concert in Brady Educational Center foyer. Info: (651) 962-5870.



## June 20

*Music festival:* If you're one of the lucky ones to have tickets to the sold-out Rock the Garden concerts at Minneapolis Sculpture Garden near Walker Art Center, stop by and say hello at UST's booth. The university's Opus College of Business is a Rock the Garden sponsor.



## July 30

*Community celebration:* UST's annual Neighborfest will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy free treats and music, and grill items will be available for purchase. This year, due to construction, the fest moves to UST's upper (north) quadrangle adjacent to its residence halls and chapel. Free! Info: (651) 962-6400.